

AMENDED CLAIMS

received by the International Bureau on 22 April 2005 (22.04.05): original claims 1-11 have been replaced by amended claims 1-11 (2 pages).

CLAIMS

1. An electrical terminal (30), comprising:
 - a first contact member (32) having an outer pressure contacting end portion (32a) for pressure engaging a first electrical device (60) and an enlarged inner end portion (32b);
 - a second contact member (34) having an outer pressure contacting end portion (34a) for pressure engaging a second electrical device (62) and an enlarged inner end portion (34b);
 - a sleeve (36) including
 - a through hole (44) for slidably receiving the inner end portions of the first and second contact members,
 - said through hole having a first open end (46) through which the pressure contacting end portion of the first contact member projects and a second open end (48) through which the pressure contacting end portion of the second contact member projects, and
 - restricted stop means (54,56) at the first and second open ends of the through hole for abutting the enlarged inner end portions of the contact members to define outer limit positions of the pressure contacting end portions of the contact members; and
 - a biasing member (38) in the through hole of the housing to resiliently bias the contact members in opposite directions, the biasing member being in a relaxed condition when the pressure contacting end portions of the contact members are out of pressure engagement with the electrical devices, whereby one of the contact members (32) can be retracted substantially into the through hole to thereby reduce the distance between distal ends of the pressure contacting end portions (32a,34a) of the contact members (32,34).
2. The electrical terminal of claim 1 wherein said restricted stops comprise inwardly turned flanges (54,56) of the sleeve at said first and second open ends (46,48) thereof.
3. The electrical terminal of claim 1 wherein said sleeve (36) includes an inner tube (40) surrounded by an outer tube (42), with the contact members (32,34) being reciprocally slidably mounted in opposite ends of the inner tube.
4. The electrical terminal of claim 3 wherein said inner tube (40) is fabricated of conductive material and said outer tube (42) is fabricated of dielectric material.

5. The electrical terminal of claim 3 wherein said restricted stop means at one open end (46) of the sleeve is formed by an inwardly turned flange (54) of the outer tube (42).

6. The electrical terminal of claim 3 wherein said restricted stop means at one open end (48) of the sleeve is formed by an inwardly turned flange (56) of the inner tube (40).

7. The electrical terminal of claim 6 wherein said restricted stop means at an opposite open end (46) of the sleeve is formed by an inwardly turned flange (54) of the outer tube (42).

8. The electrical terminal of claim 7 wherein opposite ends of the inner tube (40) abut against said flanges (54,56).

9. The electrical terminal of claim 3 wherein the outer tube (42) of said sleeve (36) includes a positioning recess (50) in an outer surface thereof for positioning the electrical terminal (30) in an appropriate housing (52).

10. The electrical terminal of claim 1 wherein said biasing member comprises a coil spring (38) having opposite ends engageable with the enlarged inner end portions (32b,34b) of the contact members (32,34).

11. The electrical terminal of claim 1 wherein the outer pressure contacting end portion (32a) of one of said contact members (32) is shorter than the outer pressure contacting end portion (34a) of the other contact member (34).